

To: Providers of Service Coordination

Re: Small Minutes Billing

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) is furnishing information to service coordination providers regarding the accurate billing of “small minutes,” or partial units of service, that are accumulated while serving children receiving services through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part C Program (commonly referred to as BabyNet in South Carolina). This information does not reflect a policy change but is intended to clarify how SCDHHS reimburses providers for efforts that do not meet a full unit measurement. The billing practice is now in line with other program areas within Healthy Connections Medicaid.

Service amounts between eight (8) and 22 minutes will continue to be reimbursed as one unit. **Service contacts lasting for a duration of below eight (8) minutes, or small minutes, will be accounted for by totaling all such contacts in a single day for an individual child and dividing them into units adapted from the Medicare Eight (8) Minute Rule located in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Manual (see Table 1 below).** Small minutes are totaled by services provided to individual children in a single calendar day before they are divided into billable units. Minutes must not be accumulated across multiple children or across multiple dates of service. Service coordinators must continue to document each individual contact by individual service in the BabyNet Reporting & Intervention Data Gathering Electronic System (BRIDGES). Documentation of individual contacts should not be consolidated into one entry when entering service logs into BRIDGES.

Table 1

Units	Time
1	≥ 8 minutes through 22 minutes
2	≥ 23 minutes through 37 minutes
3	≥ 38 minutes through 52 minutes
4	≥ 53 minutes through 67 minutes
5	≥ 68 minutes through 82 minutes
6	≥ 83 minutes through 97 minutes
7	≥ 98 minutes through 112 minutes
8	≥ 113 minutes through 127 minutes

SCDHHS understands that some providers have had concerns regarding claims billed following the integration of BabyNet and Medicaid. Due to technical limitations, the interim payment process in effect as a result of the integration of BabyNet and SCDHHS has not allowed providers to be reimbursed for consolidated partial units; however, the approaching completion of the claims-level adjustment project will allow for this method to be utilized. **BabyNet providers will be reimbursed using the method described above for all dates of service on and after July 1, 2019.** Necessary retroactive adjustments for any dates after July 1, 2019, will be automatically issued by SCDHHS once those calculations are completed.

The SCDHHS BabyNet program appreciates the patience of the provider community and will continue to communicate further information regarding small minutes billing as it becomes available, including when providers should expect to begin to see partial units accounted for in their remittances.